

Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
USSN 09/802,925
Attorney Docket Q63473
December 16, 2005

REMARKS

Claims 1-9 are all the claims pending in the application.

In the last Office Action Claim 8 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite and Claim 9 was objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim. Claims 1, 3-6, 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Viteri *et al.* (USP 6,170,264). Claims 2 and 7 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Allowable Claim 7 is an independent claim, not a dependent Claim as alleged in the last Office Action. Accordingly, Claims 7, 8 and 9 are believed to be allowable.

The subject-matter of present Claim 1 is directed to a process for obtaining a heating fluid to be used as indirect heat source for carrying out endothermic reactions. This means that the present invention is concerned with the specific technical field of heat transfer between a heating fluid and chemical reagents which react according to endothermic reactions. In this connection, the technical problem to be solved by the present invention is that of providing a process for producing such a heating fluid wherein the so obtained heating fluid can advantageously be used as heat source in a heat exchange apparatus designed for the above heat transfer, eliminating at the same time the risk of metal dusting in the heat exchange apparatus. Accordingly, the process according to the present invention provides for the further step of feeding a flow comprising water to the heating fluid itself or to a combustor where such a

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heating fluid is produced. See for instance the present description from page 6, line 30 to page 8, line 30.

The patent to Viteri *et al.* (US 6,170,264) is concerned with the totally different technical field of engine designs, wherein combustion gases are produced and expanded to generate power (see for instance column 1, lines 16-28 and column 25, lines 53-55). Moreover, this patent is concerned with the totally different technical problem of providing a means for developing a zero or very low pollution transportation power system or electric power generating facility (see for instance column 2, line 66 to column 3, line 2). In this connection, a flow of re-circulating water is injected in the combustion gases for a totally different purpose with respect to the present invention, i.e. merely to reduce the temperature of the combustion gases and to increase their mass flow rate for improving power generation (see for instance column 8, lines 53-59). Such purposes have nothing to do with the phenomenon of metal dusting to which the present invention is confronted. Therefore, the limiting features of present Claim 1, wherein the heating fluid is used as indirect heat exchange for carrying out endothermic reactions, is clearly neither disclosed nor suggested in Viteri *et al.*


In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments it is submitted that Claims 1-9 inclusive are allowable and it is respectfully requested that these claims be allowed and the application passed to issue forthwith.

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In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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